

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 OMB-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-04  
DHA-02 /088 W

-----141134Z 061389 /14

R 141042Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9223  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1326

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT EI  
SUBJECT: IRISH GENERAL ELECTION

REF: DUBLIN 1263

1. TWO DAYS BEFORE THE VOTING (JUNE 16) THE IRISH GENERAL ELECTION STILL APPEARS A TOSS-UP. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY THREE POLLING ORGANIZATIONS ATTEMPTING TO ASSESS THE ELECTION, AND NONE OF THE THREE HAS ACTUALLY ATTEMPTED TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME. IT SEEMS THAT NO ONE THINKS IT POSSIBLE OR WORTHWHILE TO CONDUCT A SCIENTIFIC SURVEY OF VOTER PREFERENCES DOWN TO THE FIFTH CHOICE, AND IT IS NOW GENERALLY CONCEDED THAT THE FOURTH AND FIFTH CHOICES WILL BE CRUCIAL.

2. TWO OF THE THREE POLLS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE TWO OPPONENTS IN THE ELECTION, AND THEIR RESULTS HAVE LEAKED ONLY PARTIALLY. THE COALITION POLL (FINE GAEL/LABOR), CONDUCTED AROUND JUNE 3, APPARENTLY WORRIED THE COALITION CONSIDERABLY AND RESULTED IN A CHANGE OF TACTICS, I.E., THERE HAS BEEN MORE "PROMISING" AND LESS STANDING PAT ON ITS RECORD. THE FIANNA FAIL POLL, CONDUCTED ALSO AROUND JUNE 3, INDICATED (ACCORDING TO ONE OF ITS HIGH OFFICIALS)

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THAT FIANNA FAIL HAS A FIGHTING CHANCE OF WINNING AND THAT THE EMPHASIS ON A POSITIVE "PROGRAM" (SEE REFTTEL) IS GETTING GOOD VOTER ACCEPTANCE. THE THIRD POLL, AND PROBABLY THE MOST RELIABLE, DONE BY THE PRESTIGIOUS IRISH TIMES NEWSPAPER, GIVES A MIXED PICTURE BUT SHOWS A TREND GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO FIANNA FAIL. FOR INSTANCE IT SHOWS THAT OPPOSITION LEADER JACK LYNCH IS FAVORED OVER LIAM COSGRAVE FOR PRIME MINISTER 54 PERCENT TO 29 PERCENT (16 PERCENT BOTH EQUAL

AND 1 PERCENT UNDECIDED).

3. THE FIANNA FAIL MOMENTUM HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED BY ONE CANDIDATE WHO DECLARED THAT HE WOULD WORK FOR REPEAL OF THE OFFENSES AGAINST THE STATE ACT (ANTI-TERRORIST LEGISLATION ORIGINALLY PASSED BY FIANNA FAIL). WITHIN TWO HOURS HE HAD BEEN PUBLICLY CENSURED BY PARTY LEADER JACK LYNCH, BUT APPARENTLY DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE. THE MOOD OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE IRISH IS STRONGLY ANTI-TERRORIST, AND THERE IS NO VOTER SYMPATHY FOR "REPUBLICANISM". WE HAVE NOT, IN FACT, DETECTED ANY CANDIDATES SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT THE UNIFICATION OF IRELAND. IT IS A NON-ISSUE.

4. UNLESS THE VOTE IS EXTREMELY CLOSE, WE SHOULD HAVE A DETERMINATION OF THIS GENERAL ELECTION BY THE EVENING OF JUNE 17 (IRISH TIME). THE ELECTED DAIL IS THEN SCHEDULED TO ASSEMBLE ON JULY 5. IN THE INTERIM THE "GOVERNMENT" REMAINS FUNCTIONING WHETHER THEY HAVE LOST OR WON. AS INDICATED ABOVE, THE ELECTION IS BEING CALLED VERY CLOSE BY MOST SEASONED OBSERVERS. THE BOOKMAKERS ARE PUTTING ODDS AGAINST FIANNA FAIL NOW AT TWO-TO-ONE, DOWN FROM FOUR-TO-ONE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CAMPAIGN. HOWEVER, FEW ARE ACTUALLY ACCEPTING BETS. RENDAHL

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## Message Attributes

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